

TESTIMONIAL TO DR. JOHN CONOLLY.—It gives us pleasure to observe that the friends of this gentleman are raising a subscription to present him with a public testimonial, in acknowledgment of his professional merits and private worth. Dr. Conolly has done more to alleviate the sufferings of the unfortunate lunatic in England than any other human being: he has struggled long and zealously to oppose and surmount bad systems with inhuman practices, and to substitute wise measures and gentle treatment, in their place. Constitutionally humane, professionally learned, and naturally generous, he has exerted all his qualifications in behalf of a class of his fellow-creatures whose sufferings have rendered them not only helpless to themselves, but a misery and a burthen to their friends and to society. Let us hope that the public will manifest their sympathy with his benevolent and successful efforts, by such a prompt and liberal subscription as may render the testimonial commensurate to the merits of Dr. Conolly, and to the cause he has espoused.—The testimonial will take the shape of a portrait, and each subscriber will receive an engraved copy of it.

PATENT LAW IN BRITAIN AND ABROAD.—The cost of obtaining the right to a patent in this country is immense when compared with the general cost throughout the continents of Europe and America. In France it is 12*l.* and upwards; in Spain 10*l.*, 30*l.*, and 60*l.*; in the Netherlands and Belgium 6*l.* and 30*l.*; in Austria 5*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*, with 11*s.* 8*d.* a-year additional; and in America, 6*l.* 10*s.*; while, in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, it is no less than 300*l.* In France, the Netherlands, Belgium, &c., the surplus profit on the management of this cost is applied to an invention fund; in our own country of pertinations and venerable abuses, it goes to "the Home Office, Privy Seal Office, Attorney-General, and various Chancery offices." Elsewhere there is uniformly a special patent law;—with us there is actually no law of patents, properly speaking, at all; patents being granted at pleasure of the Crown, under one of those judge-made laws which are modestly based, not on the sagacity of the judges themselves, so much as on that of other judges, who happened to live when the world was somewhat younger, and less experienced than it now is. Successive precedents in decision, or interpretations, of the famous statute, 21 Jac. 1, c. 3, (A.D. 1624), limiting the power of the Crown in granting monopolies, are all that we possess by way of a patent law. These particulars are gleaned from a "comparative view," of some interest, in the *Journal of Design*.—We may here remark, by the way, that it is doubted whether the Act lately passed for the temporary protection of designs will even do that,—as intending patentees are allowed, under the present state of the law, not to register their inventions for future patent, that all they have to do, is afterwards making out their specifications, is to include such designs, wherever they may happen to relate to the general subject of the patent, vaguely bespoken as a registered invention or improvement.

TO RENDER BRICK OR STONE IMPERVIOUS TO WET.—Some time ago Mr. Sylvester described a process at the Institute of Architects adopted by him to render brickwork or stone impervious to wet. The porous brick or stone wall is to be washed with a hot solution of three quarters of a pound of mottled soap in a gallon of water, laid evenly with a large brush. This wash, after twenty-four hours, is to be followed by a second composed of half a pound of alum thoroughly dissolved in four gallons of water. In reply to a correspondent who refers to this, and inquires if it can be acted on successfully, we can only say that a member of the institute reported some time afterwards that he had adopted it and found it answer. This notice may perhaps elicit further information.

RECLAMATION OF LAND FROM THE SEA.—For the last twelve months some 300 or 400 men have been daily employed in erecting an embankment from the town of Youghal to the immense wooden bridge crossing the Blackwater. We learn from the *Cork Constitution* that the space now enclosed is in the form of a triangle, having the land on one side, the causeway to the great bridge at the other, and the new embankment in the front. This embankment is 2,303 yards in length.

It is very broad at the base, and about six feet wide on the top, and encloses no less than 250 acres over which the sea rolled last week. On the exposed side of the structure a sea-wall is built of massive stonework. The materials of which the structure is composed were drawn from three quarries, for the most part by donkeys attended by boys. Last week, to the great astonishment of the country around, the gap was closed, and the end of this week will see the entire bottom of the area, from which the water will be let off through a flood-gate. The original estimate for this work was 8,811*l.* 15*s.* There was expended on the 31st December last 9,432*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.*, and the further estimate for its completion was 3,600*l.*

PEEL STATUE IN BIRMINGHAM.—A bronze statue of Sir R. Peel, at a cost of 2,000 guineas, is to be erected in Birmingham. Mr. Peter Hollins, the sculptor of the statue of Dr. Jephson at Leamington, has been commissioned to execute it. The subscription now amounts to 1,000*l.*

SCRIBBLING ON WALLS.—A correspondent suggests that this abominable practice, which, by the bye, is at least as old as the days of Pompeii, and which now prevails especially in the bye-ways of railway stations, might be obviated by mixing the paint, where used for such places, with rough sand.

CANAL LOCKS SUPERSEDED.—With reference to your paragraph so headed, which has been going the round of the papers, permit me to make an observation. The invention is described as being on the Monkland Canal, near Glasgow, and is attributed to Mr. Lesley. Now, Sir, the fact is, a precisely similar mode has been in use in Shropshire these thirty years: there are two on the canals belonging to the Lilleshall Company: one of these, I should say, raises the boats upwards of 100 feet, the other may be a little less. Another of these inclines is in the same neighbourhood, and belongs to the Shropshire Union Railway and Canal Company; it is a double line: two boats may go up at once, or one may go up while another is coming down. The whole of the machinery is of the most perfect kind, and much improved of late years under the superintendence of Mr. Beech, the resident engineer. I should be disposed to consider Telford the inventor of canal inclines, he having been engineer in chief for the Shropshire system of canals.—A SALOPIAN.

NEW LODGING-HOUSES AT GLASGOW.—The first general meeting of the Glasgow Association for the establishment of lodging-houses for the working classes was held on Tuesday in last week, the Lord Provost in the chair, when the usual report was read by the secretary, from which it appears that the house for single men, with which the society began their useful exertions, has not only been highly successful so far as regards the main object in view, and also self-supporting, but, by reason of this success, had already induced the directors to open a second, which was getting on as prosperously as the first. Lord Ashley was present, and in his address advised the formation of three classes of lodging-houses simultaneously, namely, one for single females, and another for families, as well as the third for single men. His lordship further said, with reference to sanitary arrangements in streets and dwellings, that he maintained the principle, in which he had been much opposed, that property had its duties as well as its rights, and no man was at liberty to lay out his capital in a way calculated to ruin his fellow-creatures. No man ought to be allowed to lay out his money in erecting houses for the working classes unless they were made suitable for the purpose intended, and conducive to the health and comfort of the occupants. He was therefore anxious to obtain from Parliament powers to regulate these arrangements, and the width of streets, &c. Until they obtained these he had no great hope of their obtaining their object, and securing a healthy, industrious, and moral population. Sheriff Bell proposed the opening of a third house for single females, which was unanimously agreed to.

WAGES IN THE BUILDING TRADES.—In a case tried at the County Court, Manchester, it has been found that a workman employed by a joiner and builder at board work, though engaged nominally by the week, may be discharged without a week's notice, or in the middle of the week.

CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL, CALEDONIAN-ROAD.—On Tuesday last the foundation-stone of a new congregational chapel was laid by Mr. D. W. Wire, in the Caledonian-road, Islington. The design, which, as we are told, is Grecian and of the Ionic order, is by Mr. A. Trimen. Mr. Myers has contracted to erect it for 2,436*l.* The basement is to be arranged into school and class-rooms, in which 600 children may be taught.

THE DUNDEE ARCH.—We understand that the arch projected at Dundee in 1844, to commemorate the Queen's visit in that year, is almost completed. It is of solid masonry, with stairs leading to the summit; the style, Norman, with ornaments emblematic of the intention. The structure forms a gateway to the principal docks.

A CARPET FOR THE '51 EXHIBITION.—We understand that a plan for the working of a carpet to be exhibited next year, has been suggested to the ladies of England by Mrs. Purcell, of New Burlington-street. A design of considerable elegance has been made by Mr. Gruner, and we trust our fair countrywomen will not be backward in bestowing some of the labour they expend on the furniture of their own drawing-rooms, to produce a specimen of needlework really worthy of their trouble, and creditable to their taste.

THE PARISH PUMP IN ST. BRIDE'S, FLEET-STREET.—A committee has reported in favour of a plan considered by Mr. Shaw, architect, for sinking a well near the church, with a tank under one of its vaults, to replace the old parish pump, supplied from a spring which is now deteriorated by a sewer in Bride-lane, for which damage to the parish pump the Sewers Commission are held responsible. Various objections to the new plan were started in the vestry, particularly as to injury to the church, vicinity of grave-yard, sewers, &c., and the report was at length ordered to lie on the table.

INFRINGEMENT OF A REGISTERED DESIGN.—The defendant in a case at Guildhall, city, has been fined 30*l.* for each offence committed in the infringement of a design for a ventilating pane registered by a Liverpool inventor. Some modifications of the invention had been adopted by the defendant, who had been previously warned to desist from the infringement. Costs, 10*l.* over and above the fines.

THE ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION will hold their opening conversazione this, Friday, evening, the 4th inst.

HOT-AIR APPARATUS.—Mr. J. Nasmyth, of Lille, France, engineer, has patented, so called, improvements which consist principally in a mode of heating air for warming buildings, apartments, conservatories, &c., also for drying goods, and other processes. The apparatus consists of a number of metallic chambers, or, more properly, channels, surrounded by a furnace, and arranged in such manner as that the products of combustion and heat shall play around them. These chambers are open at bottom to admit a current or currents of air, and at top communicate with pipes, through which the heated air is conveyed and applied as required. This description does not sound very well.

TENDERS

For a Baptist Chapel, Hammersmith; quantities supplied. Mr. John Thomas, Architect.

Piper	£3,330
Smith and Appleford	3,100
Bird	3,050
Lucas	3,050
Gannon	2,994

For Warehouse in Cannon-street, City, for Messrs. Morgan, Martyn, and George; quantities supplied. Mr. A. B. Blenkarn, Architect.

Brace and Son	£4,920
Hayward and Nixon	4,500
Gannon	4,403
Taylor (accepted)	4,400

For Buildings for Mr. Cottrell, corner of Park-street, Camden-town. Mr. Alfred Newman, Architect.

Lawrence and Sons	£7,754
Henders and Woolcott	7,733
I Anson	7,555
Pearce	7,374
Batterbury	7,000

For Saint John's National Schools, Portland-town, Messrs. Garland and Christopher, Architects.

Clemence	£2,300
Myers	2,200
Kalk	2,173
Holland	2,130
Piper	2,080
Trego	1,900